

Council Comments B

To: Mayor and City Council
Cc: John Szerlag, City Manager
Lori Grigg Bluhm, City Attorney

From: Robin Beltramini, Council Member

Subject: The rest of the Civic Center site

Date: June 19, 2003

In January, Council committed to looking at the whole Civic Center site, with citizen input, concurrent with the proposal for using some acreage for a conference center and hotel. I believe that it is important to begin that process as soon as possible. It is absolutely imperative that we, as a community, know that there is enough land for all venues of interest. If there is not, there must be a prioritization of those interests. Without this knowledge, any vote to allow land use for a conference center and hotel is taken in a vacuum. Also, should the voting public believe that a conference center and hotel is in the best interests of the City, any RFP responder would be well served to offer us a partnership in development toward these ancillary, resident-based amenities. I propose the following process:

July 7 – Council formally asks for suggestions of delegates to the Civic Center Priority Committee. I would suggest one member (suggested by these respective boards) from each of: Board of Zoning Appeals, Downtown Development Authority, Parks and Recreation Board, Planning Commission, Traffic Committee, Historical Commission, Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, and the Advisory Committee for Senior Citizens. Additionally, I would recommend a youth member, but hesitate to make this a member of the TYC because of the problems that group has had getting quorum to their own meetings.

Originally, I had thought that we should appoint community members at large as well. However, upon reflection, deciding who would be objectively representative of the community in the process would be an impossible task for us. And, those groups that have been vocal throughout this process, such as Troy Citizens United and Troy Shareholders, hold memberships on the boards/committees included above. Therefore, I believe that all voices can be heard by utilizing members of the representative city boards and committees already in place with experience and training in land use, circulation, preservation, recreation, and special needs.

July 21—Council appoints the Civic Center Priority Committee. Staff liaison is appointed by the City Manager. Upon appointment, all members of the CCPC will be furnished a copy of the Troy Futures Report and the report of the OTHSTF.

August 2003—The CCPC begins meetings, at least monthly. All meetings will be subject to the OMA, including a generous “Public Comment” portion where individuals can offer input. These meetings need to be recorded and televised on WTRY at least once every two weeks.

February 2004—CCPC report of priorities returned to City Council for publication and comment.